

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A method of preparing an acetabulum to receive an acetabular cup, comprising:

making an anterior incision; and  
preparing the acetabulum to receive the acetabular cup through the anterior incision.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein said step of making an anterior incision comprises making an anterior incision substantially aligned with a femoral neck.

3. The method of Claim 1, wherein said anterior incision has a length of about 3.75 - 5cm.

4. The method of Claim 2, wherein said anterior incision has a length of about 3.75 - 5cm.

5. The method of Claim 1, wherein said step of preparing the acetabulum to receive the acetabular cup through said anterior incision comprises:

accessing a femoral neck and a femoral head through the anterior incision;

cutting along the femur to remove a cut portion from a femoral shaft, said cut portion comprising the femoral head and a portion of the femoral neck;

in situ morselizing said cut portion as necessary for removal through said anterior incision;

removing said cut portion through said anterior incision; and  
reaming the acetabulum.

6. The method of Claim 5, wherein said step of accessing a femoral neck and a femoral head through the anterior incision comprises steps of:

performing a blunt dissection of muscle underlying said anterior incision to expose a capsule of a hip joint;

incising said capsule; and

retracting a portion of said capsule to visually expose said femoral neck.

7. The method of Claim 5, wherein said step of cutting along the femur to

remove a cut portion from a femoral shaft comprises the steps of:

providing an osteotomy guide having a handle, an alignment portion affixed to said handle for aligning with a central femoral axis, and a cut guide affixed to said handle;

aligning said alignment portion with said femoral axis, with said cut guide lying on said femoral neck;

marking a cut path defined by said cut guide; and

cutting along said cut path to remove a cut portion from a femoral shaft, said cut portion comprising a femoral head and a portion of said femoral neck.

8. A method for preparing a femur to receive a femoral stem, comprising:  
making a posterior incision;  
preparing a femur to receive a femoral stem through said posterior incision.

9. The method of Claim 8, wherein said step of making a posterior incision comprises making a posterior incision substantially aligned with a central axis of a femoral shaft.

10. The method of Claim 8, wherein said step of making a posterior incision comprises the step of making a posterior incision having a length of about 2.5 to 3 cm substantially aligned with a central axis of a femoral shaft.

11. The method of Claim 9, wherein said step of making a posterior incision comprises making a step of making a posterior incision having a length of about 2.5 to 3 cm.

12. The method of Claim 8, wherein said step of making a posterior incision comprises the step of making a posterior incision having a length of about 2 to 3 cm substantially aligned with a central axis of a femoral shaft.

13. The method of Claim 9, wherein said step of making a posterior incision comprises the step of making a posterior incision having a length of about 2 to 3 cm.

14. The method of Claim 8, further comprising the following steps prior to said step of preparing a femur to receive a femoral stem through said posterior incision:

performing a blunt dissection to provide an access through said posterior incision to expose said femoral shaft; and

inserting a retractor into said access, said retractor comprising a tunnel size for insertion through said access, and wherein said step of preparing a femur to receive a femoral stem through said posterior incision comprises the step of preparing a femur to receive a femoral stem through said retractor.

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